

HONORING THE NASWA RESORT'S  
ANNIVERSARY AND THE LIFE  
AND LEGACY OF HOPE MARKIS

**HON. CHRIS PAPPAS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 27, 2025*

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the NASWA Resort's anniversary and in memory of their dedicated owner, Hope Markis.

The NASWA Resort is one of the Lakes Region's most iconic establishments, founded by Greek immigrants and its legacy carried on by their daughter, Hope Markis, and her family. Starting as just a few cabins, the Markis family has transformed the NASWA Resort into the hospitable and beautiful place it is today. Over the years, they have grown their business from an inn to the resort we know, expanding to include more options for entertainment, food, and adventure.

Hope Markis was truly a leader, through both her work in pioneering the resort and her active involvement in her community. Her legacy truly lives in her hospitality and generosity, whether that was in the way she welcomed guests to the resort or in her support of veterans and first responders. The way that she cared for her community will not be forgotten, and that care lives on in her children and grandchildren, who continue to run the NASWA Resort. Certainly, what she has built as a businesswoman and as a matriarch will be felt by all of those who come to the resort and experience her hard work and dedication.

The NASWA Resort is not just an important piece of New Hampshire's tourist economy, but a multigenerational family business that is a vital part of the Lakes Region. New Hampshire owes Hope and her family a debt of gratitude for all that they have brought to the region and the work they have done to better the community around them.

On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I share my condolences with the Markis family, including her children and her grandchildren. I would once again like to extend my condolences to her family and wish them all the very best in this time of grieving.

CELEBRATING SHIRLEY SMITH  
SOUTHERLAND'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 27, 2025*

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Shirley Smith Southerland's 90th Birthday on July 26, 2025. Shirley Smith Southerland was born in Wallace, North Carolina in 1935, and is a mother of 4 children, 1 boy and 3 girls. She was an award-winning hairdresser before working for Princess House Inc., becoming one of its top five independent sales managers in the country. Known as "Yaya" by her 21 grandchildren and great grandchildren, she is a devoted and loving grandmother. We celebrate her this month as a shining example of a civic-minded American—through her service dedication, hard work, respect for others, and active participa-

tion in democracy. She shows us what it means to be a model citizen.

CELEBRATING MARK RATNER'S 20  
YEARS OF SERVICE IN CONGRESS

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 27, 2025*

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, on this 27th day in the month of June in the year 2025, we recognize Mark Ratner of Battle Creek, Michigan, for concluding his time on Capitol Hill after more than 20 years of outstanding service to the American people in the United States House of Representatives.

Ratner's career in public service has been marked by a steadfast commitment to the people of Michigan and the nation. A proud graduate of Michigan State University, Ratner began his journey serving Michigan Congressman Joe Schwarz and went on to devote 16 remarkable years working for Michigan Congressman Fred Upton. During his tenure with Congressman Upton, Ratner's leadership as Legislative Director and Deputy Chief of Staff was instrumental in advancing critical legislative priorities, particularly in the field of healthcare, where his expertise and dedication helped shape policies that improved the lives of countless Americans.

Ratner further distinguished himself by bringing his wealth of experience and steady hand to the office of Wisconsin Congressman BRYAN STEIL, where he served as Chief of Staff. His contributions extended beyond Michigan and Wisconsin, including his service with Louisiana Senator BILL CASSIDY, reflecting a career dedicated to principled governance.

Throughout his decades of service, Ratner has been known for his tireless work ethic, his keen understanding of complex policy matters, and his unwavering integrity. His efforts, especially in healthcare policy, have left an indelible impact on the legislative process and have helped ensure that the voices of his constituents were heard and represented with honor and diligence.

As Ratner concludes his exceptional career in the U.S. House of Representatives, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for his many years of faithful service. His dedication has set a standard of excellence in public service, and his contributions will continue to benefit the American people for years to come.

We wish Ratner all the best in his future endeavors and thank him for his extraordinary commitment to our country. Go Green.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INVASIVE  
SPECIES RESPONSE ACT

**HON. ED CASE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 27, 2025*

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to a critical and escalating threat to our environment and economy, invasive species, and to ask for support of my proposed Invasive Species Response Act.

Invasive species jeopardize the delicate balance of our ecosystems, as they can

outcompete, prey on or introduce diseases to our native flora and fauna. The consequences of these disruptions are severe, leading to declines in biodiversity, diminishing the resilience of our ecosystems in the face of environmental change.

Beyond ecological damage, invasive species impose billions in economic costs each year. They harm agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism by reducing crop yields, damaging forests, disrupting marine ecosystems and degrading natural landscapes that communities and industries rely on.

In Hawaii, this threat is especially urgent. Hawaii's isolation has led to the evolution of many endemic species that are found nowhere else on Earth. Unfortunately, these native species often lack the defenses to compete with or resist the pressures of invasive plants and animals, which can rapidly alter ecosystems and displace local species. In Hawaii, invasive species have caused significant ecological damage, threatening the survival of native birds and plants. Protecting Hawaii's unique biodiversity is not just an environmental necessity; it is a cultural imperative that reflects the identity and heritage of the Hawaiian people.

Invasive species are also not just a localized problem; they pose a significant threat to the integrity of our natural world. Addressing this crisis requires a coordinated and comprehensive approach, focusing on prevention, early detection and effective management strategies to safeguard our vulnerable ecosystems.

In response to this urgent need, I am jointly introducing the Invasive Species Response Act with my colleague, Congressman JIM MOYLAN of Guam. This legislation will codify the existing Invasive Species Strike Teams program currently operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). These specialized teams play an essential role in managing emerging invasive species, employing strategies tailored to local conditions across the National Wildlife Refuge System. With 21 teams strategically positioned in various FWS regions, they are on the front lines, addressing the unique challenges posed by invasive species.

The Invasive Species Response Act signifies a transformative shift within the FWS, moving us from a reactive, species-by-species approach to a more strategic, system-wide framework for managing emerging invasive species. Key provisions of the bill include formally establishing the Invasive Species Strike Teams program, which will create a stable and legally supported framework to ensure consistent funding and enhance our management efforts. The act also mandates enhanced coordination and reporting through integrated systems and standardized procedures, ensuring transparency and enabling us to track progress with annual reports to Congress and the public. Furthermore, it authorizes \$15 million annually from Fiscal Year 2025 through 2029, aligning with current FWS investment levels to support ongoing initiatives.

This legislation is a crucial step forward in protecting our natural resources and enhancing our capacity to respond swiftly to the threats posed by invasive species.

I urge my colleagues to lend their support to our Invasive Species Response Act. Together, we can ensure the preservation of our ecosystems and promote a resilient future for our environment.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF  
DEERFIELD BEACH

**HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 27, 2025*

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly special milestone for my district: 100 years since the incorporation of Deerfield Beach, Florida.

What started in June 1925 as a town of just 500 people has boomed into a vibrant city and one of the best places to live in South Florida. Deerfield Beach is special not just because of its natural beauty, but also because of the people who have built this city up for the past century and make it what it is today.

I'm proud to represent parts of Deerfield Beach, and I'm fortunate to work with Mayor Todd Drosky and its local commissioners to deliver the federal resources this city needs to support its infrastructure, boost its economic development, and keep families here safe. It is truly an incredible place to call home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in wishing a happy 100th birthday to the City of Deerfield Beach. I look forward to what this next century brings for this community and its residents.

HONORING METRO TRANSIT POLICE OFFICER BEVERLY RODRIGUEZ

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 27, 2025*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public safety professional who was taken from us much too soon. Metro Transit Police Lieutenant Beverly Rodriguez was just 40 years old when she died on Sunday, June 22, 2025, in a tragic accident. Her death is a deep and profound loss for her family, especially her two sons Macallen and Macody, the Metro Transit Police Department, and our entire east metro community.

Ms. Rodriguez, posthumously and deservedly promoted to Lieutenant on June 23, 2025, served as a Metro Transit police officer for more than eight years. Lieutenant Rodriguez was a compassionate leader who served as head of the Homeless Action Team (HAT), building real relationships with those experiencing homelessness and personally guiding hundreds toward housing stability and hope. In addition to her police duties, Lieutenant Rodriguez served as Northern Vice President of the National Latino Peace Officers Association, where she was described as "a compassionate advocate, a trusted mentor, and a tireless servant."

I extend my deepest condolences to Lieutenant Rodriguez's family, friends, and colleagues. Her heroic works will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF COLEMAN, FLORIDA

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 27, 2025*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize and celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the City of Coleman, Florida. While unofficial records indicate that Coleman was first incorporated under general laws on June 20, 1908, it was in 1925 that the city officially received its charter, thus marking the beginning of its formal governance and development.

Coleman was first settled in 1882 by pioneers who farmed the fertile lands of the Warm Springs Hammock. The Florida Gazette of 1886–1887 listed Dr. B.F. Coleman, a physician and one of the area's earliest settlers, as the town's namesake.

Many early settlers came from nearby Adamsville, which had flourished through orange cultivation until the devastating freeze of 1894 through 1895. That natural disaster forced many to seek new livelihoods, and Coleman soon emerged as a center of diverse agricultural production. In addition to citrus, settlers in Coleman raised cotton, cattle, sheep, and hogs, with wool even shipped to Baltimore for processing. By 1923, Coleman had earned national recognition as the "Cabbage Capital of the World", attracting buyers from across the country.

Today, the City of Coleman is in the heart of Sumter County and is home to approximately 700 residents. The city retains its Old Florida charm, with a quiet rural character and deep historical roots. As we commemorate this centennial milestone, we honor the generations who have shaped Coleman's legacy as a city built on resilience, agriculture, and a deep sense of community.

Happy Centennial to the City of Coleman.

HONORING BETTY DOSTER AND  
THANKING HER FOR HER SERVICE TO UNC CHARLOTTE

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 27, 2025*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, Ms. Betty Doster, for her dedicated service to The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, my alma mater, as Special Assistant to the Chancellor for External Relations and Partnerships.

After nearly fifteen years in this important position, Betty announced her retirement, with her last day being Monday, June 30, 2025. Throughout her many years of service, Betty played an immeasurable role in the growth of UNC Charlotte into an R1 research institution. Even though she is a proud UNC Chapel Hill alum, Betty's passion for UNC Charlotte was enormous. Her efforts significantly contributed to the growing influence of our university across the state of North Carolina, around the country and around the world. It was a pleasure to work with Betty on many of these initiatives over the years.

As Special Assistant to the Chancellor for External Relations and Partnerships, Betty worked closely with federal, state, and local officials, as well as economic development partners to secure important public investments for the University. Betty's efforts helped acquire major student-focused initiatives, including authorization for the University Recreation Center, expansion of the Collegiate Recovery Program, and support for UNC Charlotte's esports initiative.

It is my honor to take this opportunity to recognize Ms. Betty Doster for her incredible service to UNC Charlotte, and her significant impact on the University. While I'll miss working with Betty and discussing the 49ers, I wish her all the best in her next adventure and hope she will be able to enjoy more time with friends and family.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring my friend, Ms. Betty Doster, for her nearly 15 years of dedicated service to UNC Charlotte and the lasting impact she made on the university and everyone she met along the way.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SENATOR DAVID L. JORDAN UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 27, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride and deep respect to honor the life and remarkable public service of Mississippi State Senator David L. Jordan—a man whose journey from the cotton fields of Leflore County to the Mississippi State Capitol is not just inspiring—it's the story of Mississippi, and of America at its best.

Senator Jordan was born in rural Leflore County Mississippi, the youngest of five children in a sharecropping family. He began working in the cotton fields as soon as he was big enough to carry a sack. Like so many children in that era, he missed a lot of school during harvest season. But even then, young David knew education was the key to something more. And he never stopped pushing toward it.

He worked nights washing dishes at a Holiday Inn while putting himself through Mississippi Valley State University and later earned a master's degree in chemistry from the University of Wyoming. That kind of grit—working all night, studying all day—is something we don't talk about enough in politics. But that's the kind of man Senator Jordan is.

He began his professional life as a science teacher, but his heart was always with the community. In 1985, he made history as the first African American elected to the Greenwood City Council, where he served with quiet strength and fierce dedication for 36 years. He became a trusted leader, someone people turned to for guidance and fairness, no matter the issue.

In 1993, he was elected to the Mississippi State Senate, representing District 24. For over three decades, Senator Jordan has been a powerful voice for his constituents—a calm presence in moments of tension, a mentor to